

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Brief Listing of the Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3-17, 20-24 are Previously Presented

Claims 2, 18 and 19 are Cancelled

Claims 25 and 26 are New

1. (Previously Presented) A wood cooking mixture comprising hardwood particles and a wood cooking aid, wherein the wood cooking aid comprises a fatty acid component and a rosin acid component and/or salts thereof, and wherein said cooking aid comprises about 70 to about 2% fatty acids, about 20 to about 98% rosin acids, and less than about 15% unsaponifiable material.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking mixture of claim 1 wherein said cooking aid comprises about 35 to about 80% rosin acids, about 55 to about 15% fatty acids and less than about 15% unsaponifiable material.

4. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking mixture of claim 1 wherein said rosin acids comprise tall oil rosin acids selected from the group consisting of abietic acid, dehydroabietic acid, palustoric acid and all combinations thereof.

5. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking mixture of claim 1 wherein said rosin acids comprise pimamic acid.

6. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking mixture of claim 1 wherein said fatty acids are selected from the group consisting of vegetable based fatty acids, animal based fatty acids, and all combinations thereof.

7. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking mixture of claim 1 wherein said fatty acids comprise unsaturated fatty acids.
8. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking mixture of claim 1 wherein said fatty acids comprise oleic acid, linoleic acid and/or pinolenic acid.
9. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking mixture of claim 1 wherein said fatty acids comprise branched fatty acids, conjugated fatty acids, synthetic fatty acids and/or cyclic fatty acids.
10. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking mixture of claim 1 wherein said fatty acids comprise a monomer part produced during dimerization of fatty acids.
11. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking mixture of claim 10 wherein said monomer part contains branched oleic acids 13 to 20%, branched stearic acids 7 to 20%, oleic acid 15 to 25% and other fatty acids 28 to 58%, the rest being unsaponifiable material.
12. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking mixture of claim 10 wherein the fatty acid distribution of said monomer part is branched oleic acids about 14 to about 16%, branched stearic acid about 13 to about 15%, oleic acid about 19 to about 21% and other fatty acids about 42 to about 44%.
13. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking mixture of claim 1 wherein said fatty acids and said rosin acids are derived from tall oil.
14. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking mixture of claim 1 wherein said fatty acids and said rosin acids comprise fractions of distilled tall oil.
15. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking mixture of claim 1 wherein said fatty acids comprise 5,11,14-C₂₀:3 and 11,14-C₂₀:2.

16. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking mixture of claim 1 wherein said fatty acids and said rosin acids are derived from distilled tall oil and/or tall oil rosin and/or tall oil fatty acids.

17. (Previously Presented) A method for processing hardwood particles comprising: contacting hardwood particles with a wood cooking aid, wherein the wood cooking aid comprises about 70 to about 2% fatty acids, about 20 to about 98% rosin acids, and less than about 15% unsaponifiable material

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A method for cooking hardwood comprising the steps of:
i) contacting hardwood particles with a cooking liquor comprising a cooking aid, and
ii) heating said particles and liquor to a temperature between 140°C and 180°C wherein said cooking aid comprises a blended mixture of about 70 to about 2% fatty acids, about 20 to about 98% rosin acids and less than about 15% unsaponifiable material.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein said hardwood is birch.

22. (Previously Presented) The wood cooking mixture of claim 1, wherein said hardwood particles are birch particles.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said hardwood particles are birch particles.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the wood cooking aid comprises about 55 to about 15% fatty acids, about 35 to about 80% rosin acids, and less than about 15% unsaponifiable material.

25. (New) A method for processing hardwood particles comprising:
- i) contacting hardwood particles with a cooking liquor comprising the wood cooking aid of claim 12 and
 - ii) cooking the result of step i) .
26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the hardwood particles are birch.